# The Loggerhead

A regional Southeast Asia newsletter

covering issues on environment, science, technology and health

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A fishing boat floats on the Mekong River. © Photo Soeung Sophat, VOA Khmer

### Working to Protect A Vital Asian Resource

The United States is committed to fostering multilateral solutions to the problems faced by people living in the Lower Mekong River Basin.

Poor water quality caused by pollution is harmful for the more than 60 million people in 5 nations who depend on the Mekong River for drinking water. It also endangers wild-life in Southeast Asia, one of the world's most bio-diverse regions. And it hurts the fishing industry, an important export business and local food source.

The United States is committed to fostering multilateral solutions to the problems faced by people living in the Lower Mekong River Basin. For example, the United States and groups in Laos are working together to restore a wetland near the capital, Vientiane, polluted by years of sewage and industrial waste dumping. The That Luang Marsh protects the Mekong River system by filtering and naturally purifying water before it enters the river and groundwater system. With funding from the U.S., the marsh is being cleaned up and reconstructed. Plans have been developed to help the Lao government better manage the area in the future

to preserve this precious resource.

Agricultural, urban, industrial and mining wastes are major sources of pollution throughout the Mekong River basin. Untreated discharges are so numerous that even monitoring the flows – the first step in cleaning up and controlling these contaminants – can be difficult. In another effort to assist the people of Southeast Asia to protect their environment, the U.S. Geological Survey is conducting cooperative ecological research projects with and providing training for Mekong scientists.

This past summer, such training was offered in Cambodia and another course will be held next year in another country in the Southeast Asia region. The U.S. State Department, through its regional environmental office based at our embassy in Bangkok, has awarded a \$200,000 grant to an university network spanning across Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam to do research on sources and levels of pollution in the Mekong. This one-year grant is being administered by the International Crane Foundation and will foster regional cooperation in land-based marine pollution prevention.

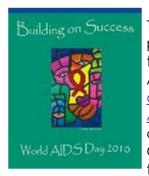
Protecting and managing a vital natural resource like the Mekong River is a transnational challenge. Regional cooperation is essential to meeting that challenge, and the United States is committed to furthering that effort.

### World AIDS Day 2010

December 1, 2010

World AIDS Day, first observed in 1988 after a summit of health ministers from around the world called for a spirit of social tolerance and a greater exchange of information on HIV/AIDS, is commemorated every year on December 1. This worldwide effort is designed to: encourage public support and programming to prevent the spread of HIV infection; provide awareness and education about HIV/AIDS; and demonstrate

compassion for those infected or affected by HIV.



The U.S. is working with its partners around the world to turn the tide against HIV/ AIDS through the <u>U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief</u> (PEPFAR), the cornerstone of President Obama's Global Health Initiative (GHI). This year, the

U.S. Government is promoting the theme "Building on Success" which reflects the idea that people have a shared responsibility to build on the success to make smart investments that will ultimately save more lives.

### SPECIAL MESSAGES ON WORLD AIDS DAY FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT

Presidential Proclamation on World AIDS Day (November 30, 2010) - "On this World AIDS Day, as we approach the thirtieth year of the HIV/ AIDS pandemic, we reflect on the many Americans and others around the globe lost to this devastating disease, and pledge our support to the 33 million people worldwide who live with HIV/AIDS. We also recommit to building on the great strides made in fighting HIV, to preventing the spread of the disease, to continuing our efforts to combat stigma and discrimination, and to finding a cure." Read the full transcript here.

President Barack Obama's World AIDS Day Message (November 30, 2010) - President Obama commemorates World AIDS Day 2010 and highlights the ways in which his Administration is combating the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. View video here.

Statement by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on World AIDS Day 2010 (December 1, 2010) - "The Obama administration has made the fight against AIDS central to the Global Health Initiative, our commitment to strengthening global health systems and implementing sustainable solutions to improve the health of entire communities. One major focus of the Global Health Initiative is strengthening our partnerships around the world so they reflect and reinforce the global effort needed to

defeat AIDS." Read the full statement here.

Statement by Ambassador Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on World AIDS Day (December 1, 2010) - "On World AIDS Day, we honor those who are living with HIV/AIDS and remember those who have been lost. In their honor, I join President Obama in reaffirming America's commitment to leading the global fight against this deadly disease." Read the full transcript here.

#### **BUILDING ON SUCCESS**



Thailand and America Building on Success in Fighting AIDS - On November 28, Deputy Chief of Mission Judith B. Cefkin attended the

opening ceremony of the World AIDS Day event sponsored by the Thai Ministry of Public Health at Jatujak Market. The U.S. Embassy was one of ten booths reserved for organizations that perform HIV/AIDS-related work. To learn more about the U.S. government's involvement in HIV projects in Thailand, please read the Op-ed by Ambassador Eric G. John.

# USAID Assists Chinese Judges in Developing an Environmental Law Training Program

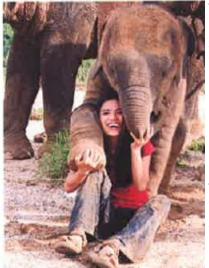
In response to the critical lack of capacity within the court system to address China's overwhelming environmental problems, on September 25, 2010, with support from USAID, Vermont Law School's U.S.-China Partnership for Environmental Law collaborated with the Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the China University of Political Science and Law to host a roundtable on

the development of an environmental adjudication training program in China. Two EAB staff members shared with participants the design, content, and training methodologies of an environmental adjudication training program EAB has developed for international audiences. The presentation generated a vibrant discussion among prominent judges from environmental courts, teachers from National Judicial College and provincial judicial colleges, the Deputy Director of the Policy and Regulation Department of China's Ministry of Environmental Protection, as well as other environmental lawyers and scholars, on how to customize the material for the development of a Chinese training program. After the roundtable, the Partnership team, EAB, and China's National Judicial College discussed plans for a cooperative training program to begin next year.

# UN: Women Heroes of Global Conservation: Repairing Nature, Empowering Communities

The United Nations Foundation, the Alliance for Global Conservation and the Green Belt Movement in October present Women Heroes of Global Conservation: Repairing Nature, Empowering Communities. Below is an excerpt of Thai recipient Sangduen Chailert. For more visit <a href="https://www.actforconservation.org">www.actforconservation.org</a>

Sangduen "Lek" Chailert of Thailand has challenged and transformed traditional wildlife management methods in the communities in



which she has set qи elephant sanctuaries and the ecotourism programs, as well as throughout her country. **Time** magazine named her one of "Asia's Heroes" for her work as a humanitarian and conservationist. Born in a remote and impoverished mountain region

of Northern Thailand, Ms. Chailert defied strongly held gender roles by attending school and receiving her Bachelor's of Arts from Chiang Mai University. In 1995, Ms. Chailert started a sanctuary for endangered Asian elephants that challenged harsh centuries old wildlife management techniques. She also works to improve the lives of women. She has insisted on hiring mostly women and on placing them in positions of responsibility—allowing women to gain leadership experience while changing the perspective of the men working in the park. Outside the park, Ms. Chailert helps women apply for leadership positions in their local villages and form local unions. Ms. Chailert has extended her work to other areas of Thailand, both protecting more elephants and generating important economic revenue and leadership roles for women.

## Tigers Need Conservation, Not Conversation

From the NY Times

By STEVEN GALSTER

Published: November 21, 2010

BANGKOK — Over the past decade, poachers have halved Asia's population of tigers and are zeroing in now on the remaining, scattered 3,200. And what is the global conservation community doing to help? Doing what it does best: calling a meeting.

Conservation is turning into conversation. The International Tiger Forum being held in St. Petersburg is a case in point. Hundreds of participants from more than a dozen countries are gathered there for the seventh meeting in two years to discuss the plight of the critically endangered tiger. The well-intentioned event will result in a "St. Petersburg Declaration" to save the tiger, and a pitch to donors for a lot of money. Meanwhile, poachers and traffickers will continue

to kill and smuggle more tigers.

The conversation needs to close. Any meeting that spends another minute or dollar in the name of tiger conservation should focus on expanding front-line wildlife protection, strengthening laws against wildlife crooks and enforcing the global ban on commercial tiger trading.

The St. Petersburg meeting, to be fair, does present an opportunity. Hosted by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, with support from World Bank President Robert Zoellick, the forum is expected to finalize a "Global Tiger Recovery Program" with the goal of doubling the population of wild tigers by 2022.

But the program has problems: The \$350-million-dollar price tag is unlikely to attract sufficient investment before the wild tiger population is further decimated. And even if someone does pick up the tab, the plan is doomed because it ignores important historical lessons that live on in Russia and Thailand.

In the early 1990s, in Russia's Far East, a small group of people (including me) launched "Inspection Tiger," an anti-poaching brigade. The Siberian tiger was being hammered as traffickers slipped carcasses of big cats, bears and other commercially sought animals under the recently lifted Iron Curtain to China and other countries.

We formed a coalition of small nongovernmental organizations to help local authorities put the squeeze on syndicates by sponsoring 24/7 tiger brigades with salaries, vehicles, fuel and training. Over four years, and for \$700,000 (half the cost of this week's meeting), poaching was brought under control and the Siberian tiger population was stabilized.

Similarly in 2004, NGOs joined Thai authorities to launch the Asean Wildlife Enforcement Network. Six Southeast Asian nations formed special task forces that in five years seized 350 tons of illegal wildlife, arrested 500 criminals and prosecuted 100. The U.S. Agency for International Development (Usaid) sponsored training, though only one country, Cambodia, required

donor support to pay for its force.

Thailand's team has been particularly efficient: It tracked down, arrested and prosecuted a major tiger trafficking ring following six months of investigations that cost less than \$7,000.

The lesson: Front-line wildlife enforcement is cheap and it works.

But support must never stop. Wildlife laws must be strengthened. Recently, Inspection Tiger had its legal claws clipped and poaching of Siberian tigers has returned. The boss of the Thai trafficking ring remains at large, due to corruption and weak legislation. And tigers are still being smuggled into China and Vietnam, where governments have yet to demonstrate that any purchase of tigers is a serious, punishable offense.

It is hard to absorb these messages at meetings, especially ones held so far away from the problem. The Global Tiger Initiative's secretariat is based in Washington, nine time zones away from the closest wild tiger. St. Petersburg is seven zones away from the Siberian tigers. Because of this distance, the Initiative does not rely primarily on local actors; it promotes expensive monitoring programs and calls on the United Nations and Interpol for enforcement.

Such big helping hands won't hurt, as long as they don't grab funds or attention from inexpensive — and more effective — field enforcement. Moscow and the World Bank should be commended for demonstrating the high-level political will to save the tiger.

They and others now need to focus on the potential that exists in the field, where enforcement teams can save the tiger with modest, consistent support coupled with legal reform. China and Vietnam need to do their part by committing themselves to shutting down all forms of tiger trade.

If tigers could speak, they'd roar for action, not more words. Let the St. Petersburg

Declaration be the last, and let's start to put our money where our fangs are.

**Steven Galster** is director of FREELAND Foundation, an international, Asia-based environmental group. He currently directs the ASEAN-WEN Support Program from Bangkok.

### Indonesia declares protected zone to save coral reefs

From the Jakarta Globe on Nov 21, 2010



Usaid Mission Director Walter North, right, and US Ambassador Scot Marciel, second right, look on as Indonesian Marine and Fisheries Affairs Minister Fadel Muhammad holds up seaweed at Nusa Penida in Klungkung, Bali on Sunday. Indonesia declared the coral-rich waters around Bali a protected zone. (AFP Photo/Sonny Tumbelaka)

**Jakarta.** Indonesia on Sunday declared the coral-rich waters around Bali -- a popular scuba diving spot which is home to the giant Mola-Mola ocean sunfish -- a protected zone.

The 20,000-hectare area around Nusa Penida, Nusa Ceningan and Nusa Lembongan islands will be protected from destructive fishing, waste dumping and coral mining, project leader Marthen Welly said.

"Destructive fishing is carried out by fishermen using cyanide and explosives," Welly of the conservation group The Nature Conservancy (TNC) said.

"Many ships also throw anchors on the coral reefs and hotels and households dump wastes causing water pollution.

Now they can't do these anymore," he said.

Guidelines for marine tourism will also be drawn up and zones carved out for various activities including fishing, tourism and seaweed mining, Welly said.

"We'll need to consult the community further and we hope to do this within six months," he added.

The islands are part of Coral Triangle, considered the world's richest underwater wilderness which stretches across six nations between the Indian and Pacific oceans — Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, East Timor, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Divers from all over the world arrive at the islands between July and September in the hope of seeing the Mola-Mola, a rare twometer-long ocean sunfish.

The district government will provide 300 million rupiah (33,600 dollars) and aid agency USAID and TNC will each provide 50,000 dollars a year to run the project, TNC Indonesia director Arwandrija Rukma said.

Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Fadel Muhammad said the project will contribute to the government's target of creating 20 million hectares of maritime conservation parks by 2020, up from around 13 million currently.

"The establishment of MPA (Marine Protected Area) is a concrete step taken by the government to implement the plan of action under the Coral Triangle Initiative," he said.

The Coral Triangle Initiative, which was formed in 2007, calls for stronger international cooperation to combat illegal fishing and environmental destruction in an area half the size of the United States and home to half the world's coral reefs.

# Myanmar border markets act as deadly trade gateway for tigers

### WWF and Traffic - Media Release

**Bangkok, Thailand**—Black markets along Myanmar, Thailand and China's shared borders play a crucial role facilitating the deadly illicit trade in tigers and other endangered species say TRAFFIC and WWF in the lead up to the International Tiger Forum taking place next week in St Petersburg, Russia.

The Big Cat Trade in Myanmar and Thailand report documents black market sales of large wild felines. Live big cats, including endangered tigers and a rare Asiatic lion were observed in trade. Hundreds of tiger and leopard parts, representing over 400 individual animals, were also observed during nearly a decade of investigations in Myanmar and Thailand.

The report is accompanied by a short documentary called *Closing a Deadly Gateway* that illustrates the illegal trade described in the report. The film shows interviews with poachers and alarming footage of butchered tigers.

"With as few as 3,200 wild tigers worldwide, the ongoing large-scale trade documented in this report cannot be taken lightly. Illegal trade poses the most immediate and dire threat to the survival of tigers. Moreover, it puts all Asia's big felines at serious risk," noted TRAFFIC Southeast Asia Regional Director, William Schaedla.

"Wildlife laws in Myanmar and Thailand clearly prohibit trafficking in tigers and other big cats. We urge authorities to bring the full weight of the law to bear upon traffickers."

Provincial markets and retail outlets at the Myanmar towns of Mong La, near the China border and Tachilek, on the Thai border, were found to play a pivotal role in the large scale distribution of big cat parts including whole skins, bones, paws, penises, and teeth. The products are transported by road and sea into China and Thailand or sold to Chinese nationals

who cross the Myanmar border to gamble and consume exotic wildlife. The report comes as tiger range State governments, including representatives from Myanmar, China, and Thailand, are expected to meet in St. Petersburg, Russia hosted by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

"A critical part of saving wild tigers must be to shut down the illegal trade in tiger parts," said Michael Baltzer, head of WWF's Tigers Alive initiative. "With all the tiger range countries convening this month in Russia for a groundbreaking summit on the future of the tiger, illegal trade such as this must stay front and centre in the negotiations."

Findings point to a flourishing illegal trade in tigers and other wildlife through Myanmar that thrives despite national and international laws. The majority of this trade occurs in non-government controlled areas between northern Myanmar and southern China. The fact that these areas maintain their own governments not linked to Myanmar's capital poses difficulty co-ordinating effective enforcement action.

"There is an urgent need to step up efforts if the region is to save its declining tiger populations. We need to enhance information gathering and ensure government and nongovernment agencies share information in transparent and timely ways from the local level to the regional scale," said Peter Cutter, Coordinator for WWF Greater Mekong Region's tiger conservation in Thailand.

Tiger populations in the Greater Mekong—an area that includes Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam—have plummeted from an estimated 1,200 during the last Year of the Tiger in 1998 to about 350 today.

"Alarmingly, the landscape between Myanmar and Thailand holds the greatest hope for tiger population recovery in this region,"

said Cutter, "but this can only happen if there are unprecedented and co-ordinated regional efforts to tackle illegal wildlife trade."

The TRAFFIC/WWF report found whole animals as well as parts and derivatives are sourced within Myanmar and from Lao PDR, Thailand, Malaysia, India and Indonesia; then trafficked across national borders into non-government controlled areas in Myanmar. Wildlife traders in Myanmar's non-government controlled areas reported that high profit margins, corrupt authorities and little fear of recrimination enables them to trade openly in prohibited wildlife. While local communities are sometimes involved, they are rarely major drivers of the illegal activities.

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia Director, William Schaedla, summarized the problem. "The area is struggling with governance and tigers are easy money for everyone from mafia types to anti-government opposition groups. Some of these players should be countered with direct enforcement actions. Others might be receptive to work through regional agreements and international bodies in order to address the problem."

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#### To download the report visit:

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http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic\_species\_mammals61.pdf

High-res photos from the report visit: <a href="http://www.divshare.com/gallery/796497-3a9">http://www.divshare.com/gallery/796497-3a9</a>

Clips from the film Closing the Deadly Gateway: <a href="http://dl.dropbox.com/u/1182249/">http://dl.dropbox.com/u/1182249/</a>
DVD%20Folder.zip

B-roll footage of tigers and tiger trade: <a href="http://www.divshare.com/folder/666213-2bc">http://www.divshare.com/folder/666213-2bc</a>

#### **About TRAFFIC**

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. TRAFFIC is a joint programme of IUCN and WWF. Across Asia, TRAFFIC works to support government agencies in law enforcement networking to combat illegal wildlife trade. Technical assistance across the enforcement continuum, including facilitation of inter-governmental dialogues, engaging the judicial sector, and working with WWF to improve linkages from national level agencies to field-based rangers, is provided on demand to member countries of the ASEAN and South Asia Wildlife Enforcement networks, as well as to China and its immediate neighbours.

www.traffic.org

#### **About WWF**

WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organizations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

<u>www.panda.org/media</u> for latest news and media resources.

## Global Investigative Group Probes Wildlife Mafia



Chinese, African, Indian and ASEAN-WEN investigators discuss ways to reduce cross border ivory trafficking.

Over 30 senior law enforcement officers representing eight countries from Southeast Asia, and law enforcement officers from China, Africa, and India met at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok to identify and take down global wildlife trafficking syndicates operating across their borders, destroying endangered tiger, elephant, and pangolin (scaly anteater) populations. These animals and their derivative products, such as ivory and traditional medicines, are in high demand around the World and among the most profitable trafficked between Africa, Asia, Europe, the United States, and other countries.

Organized by FREELAND, the Royal Thai Police and ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the four day closed door session (November 1-4) allows investigators to exchange updates on what they have learned since the Special Investigation Group (SIG) last met in January 2009. Investigators from Africa under the Kenya Wildlife Service in Kenya and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force in Uganda, as well as from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in India are joining the group to compare information and intelligence.

INTERPOL also participated in the meeting, along with the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).

Facts on the global illegal trade in highly endangered species

- The black market for tigers, leopards and pangolins (and derivative products) is estimated by INTERPOL to be worth in excess of \$10 billion (US) annually.
- Since the ASEAN-WEN Special Investigations Group meeting last year, major and model wildlife law enforcement actions in Southeast Asia have been increasing. From 67 major law enforcement actions reported in 2008, actions rose to 141 in 2009, with around 119 reported enforcement actions as of September 2010.
- Over 37 tons of pangolins were seized in the region in 2008 alone.
- Over 6.6 metric tons of elephant tusks have been seized in Southeast Asia this year alone.

### Alumni Join Effort to Save Mangrove Forest



SAMUT PRA-KARN, Thailand -To conclude the "Youth Leadership Program with Southeast Asia (YLP) Alumni

Reunion & Workshop" on October 29, YLP alumni joined forces with Youth Exchange and Study (YES) alumni to help a Thai community combat erosion by planting mangroves. A group of approximately 25 alumni and U.S. Embassy staff traveled by boat to Baan Khun Samut Jeen, a coastal village in Samut Prakarn province, to meet with local leaders and to discuss some challenging environmental issues the community is facing. For the past several decades, the community has lost a substantial amount of land

because of flooding and erosion. Several residents even lost their homes and were forced to move to other areas. The head of the village met with the alums and listed the measures the community has taken to avoid further crisis, including planting mangrove trees. The alumni came to realize the importance of this activity and, together with U.S. Embassy staff, they enthusiastically pitched in. A mangrove forest ecosystem provides necessary nesting and nursery habitats for juvenile marine animals. More importantly for Baan Khun Samut Jeen Community, mangrove swamps act as a buffer zone to reduce storm impact and land erosion along coastlines.

## Commitment on cross-border cooperation grows fast in Cambodia



Group photo of participants attending the PATROL workshop

Phnom Penh (Cambodia), 8 November 2010 - In May 2010, the Government of Cambodia and UNODC conducted a <u>fact-finding</u> mission on the main training needs of selected officers guarding the borders of Cambodia.

The findings of the <u>survey</u> highlighted, among other things, the dire need to improve the understanding of the threats posed by various transnational crimes among the Cambodian border authorities, especially in the area of migrant smuggling and environmental crime.

Under the <u>Partnership against Transnational</u> <u>Crime through Regional Organized Law Enforcement</u> programme, the Government of Cambodia and UNODC held the first Cambodia national PATROL workshop in Phnom Penh on 27 and 28 October 2010.

The workshop represented an opportunity to

discuss the results of the survey with relevant Cambodian border authorities and to propose integrated and effective responses.

Lt. Gen. Moek Dara, Secretary General of the National Authority for Combating Drugs, emphasized the importance of this event because: "A country cannot tackle transnational organized crime alone". Echoing this sentiment, Olivier Lermet, UNODC Country Manager in Cambodia, said: "Cooperation among law enforcement agencies within and across borders is vital to build a real interdiction to the trafficking of human beings, natural resources, drugs and counterfeit goods across borders."



Discussions during the working groups

During discussions among 15 different authorities, participants have recommended specific urgent interventions for 2011, such as the establishment of an inter-ministerial project advisory committee to monitor and evaluate progress made to implement the project, the setting up of two new border liaison offices along trafficking routes and the provision of pilot training programmes on selected topics.

### Vietnam Government boosts commitment to ASEAN-WEN

21 November 2010, Bangkok, Thailand. The Government of Vietnam through the CITES (Convention for the International Trade of Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora) Management Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Development (MARD) endorsed the appointment of its officer-in-charge



Nguyen Anh Tuan at the ASEAN-WEN PCU, Bangkok, Thailand.

communications and CITES permit management to the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) Program Coordination Unit, based in Banakok, Thailand, to help oversee and coordinate capacity building development, media and communications portfolio and liaison between the Government of Vietnam and the ASEAN-WEN PCU. Mr Nguyen Anh Tuan, will assume the PCU post of Capacity Building and Program Advisor for the monthlong posting here in Bangkok. Among his many important tasks in the PCU would include, linking the newly established Vietnam-Wildlife Enforcement Network (VN-WEN) to the UNODCinitiated PATROL Program (Training Program on Wildlife Trafficking for Border Law Officers within PATROL) which now works on combating the illegal wildlife trade among major border areas in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and China. PATROL is a joint initiative of UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), TRAFFIC and FREE-LAND Foundation. Concurrent to his CITES MA post, he also serves as CITES MA Vietnam Focal Point to the Working Committee of VN-WEN. Mr Nguyen is also expected to assist with the preparations leading to the ASEAN-WEN session of the ASEAN Experts Group on CITES (AEG CITES) Meeting in Brunei Darussalam this coming January 2011 and with internal policy development enhancement of ASEAN-WEN and the PCU. Joining an existing staff jointly supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Royal Thai Government, Mr Nguyen brings specific and complementary skills at a time when member countries are seeking to strengthen and sustain the Network's secretariat.

## Indonesia Teams Up With U.S. and Norway to Bike to a Greener Future



Posted by <u>Nicholas Throckmorton</u> on <u>Dip-Note</u> / November 01, 2010

About the Author: Nicholas Throckmorton serves with the Environment, Science, Technology and Health Unit at the <u>U.S. Embassy</u> in Jakarta, Indonesia.

U.S. Ambassador Scot Marciel, Jakarta Governor Fauzi Bowo, and Norwegian Ambassador Eivind Homme invited local citizen groups and embassy employees to "Bike the Road to a Greener Future" yesterday, October 31. Through this event, Ambassador Marciel promoted individual efforts to reduce carbon emissions as well as highlighted U.S. EPA's clean air partnership with Jakarta City and the United States' support of the Indonesia-Norway \$1 billion REDD+ effort to reduce deforestation. In addition, the Jakarta city government will work closely with citizen groups to promote bicycle commuting. Embassy Jakarta invited the public and media to highlight this initiative, which was spiced up by street performers and musical acts. The event capitalized upon the city's Sunday morning "Car Free Day" where the city closes its main boulevard to encourage citizens to run, walk and bike.

### The National Science Foundation

In October Dr. Joe Mook from the Office of International Science and Engineering at the National Science Foundation visited Singapore and Thailand to discuss potential



Dr. Joe Mook, National Science Foundation at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand.

collaboration with country research and education counterparts and the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF is a U.S. Government funding agency that supports science and engineering research and education by giving grants to mostly U.S. Universities who then work with counterparts abroad on cutting edge research and education in the areas of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

## \$3.2 Million Biogas Project in Philippines Receives Financing

### Reported by USAID/RDMA Regional Environmental Office

A major biogas project is set to move ahead in the Philippines' Quezon Province after financing was facilitated by the USAID-supported Private Financina Advisory Network. The Land Bank of the Philippines, a PFAN partner, will provide financing for the \$3.2 million project. Developed by JTM Industrial Farm, the 1.2 megawatt power plant will generate power from two sources—waste from JTM Industrial's large-scale pig farm in the province and biomass from local agricultural waste. Part of the power generated will be used by the pig farm itself, currently running off the grid, and the remainder will be sold back to the local grid. Byproducts from the project—including biomass briquettes and slurry—will be used as further energy sources and fertilizer.

### MRC Receives first Notification of Mainstream Mekong Project

Vientiane, Lao PDR 22 September 2010

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) received the official notification for a proposed mainstream Mekong hydropower development project in Xayaboury Province from the Government of Lao PDR. The Xayaboury hydropower project would be the first such project on the Mekong mainstream downstream of China and would be capable of generating 1260 megawatts of electricity, mainly for export to Thailand. In total, six hydropower projects are being proposed for the Mekong mainstream between Chiana Saen and Vientiane. Although preliminary information on the project has been shared earlier among MRC member countries, this notification will, for the first time, trigger the MRC's Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA) process.

"The prior consultation process is a requirement of the 1995 Mekong Agreement for countries to jointly review any dam proposed for the mainstream with a view to reaching consensus on whether or not it should proceed, and if so, under what conditions. We expect it to take about 6 months to undertake the detailed analysis of all the related issues and for the countries to come to a conclusion," said Mr. Jeremy Bird, CEO of the MRC Secretariat.

The 1995 MRC Mekong Agreement established the Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA), which states that Member Countries must notify the MRC's Joint Committee in the event they wish to engage in any major infrastructure developments (such as hydropower schemes) on the mainstream Mekong or tributaries, particularly if those developments may have significant transboundary impacts on people or the environ

ment downstream.

The Xayboury project is however only one of a number of proposed projects for the mainstream and so last year, the MRC commissioned a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of all the proposed mainstream projects including the effects of dams built and being planned in China upstream.

"The SEA was part of MRC's preparation for the PNPCA process and its final report will be available in early October. It will provide a much-needed analytical framework of the benefits, costs and impacts of the full set of proposals including cumulative impacts and information on the distribution of costs and benefits," said Mr. Bird "The SEA is one of the most extensive studies of its type and will be available in time to inform the discussions of the four countries under the PNPCA process for Xayaboury."

The PNPCA process itself is the formal mechanism in place to enable one or more individual Member Countries to submit an individual project for the 4-country regional consideration. In the case of the Xayaboury dam project, the Government of Lao PDR notified the MRC to begin the PNPCA process. During the Xayaboury PNPCA process, the MRC Joint Committee, consisting of representatives from the four Member Countries, will consult to try and reach a common position on the proposed mainstream dam development. This consultation process is one of a number of protocols in the 1995 Mekong Agreement to promote cooperation in sustainable management of the basin's water resources and avoid regional disputes developing.

As with any major infrastructure project, there will be a consideration of trade offs in benefits and impacts. One role of the SEA has been to consider the extent to which any negative impacts can be avoided, minimised or mitigated. The Joint Committee will consider the developers' proposals in this regard before coming to its conclusion.

Until now, a number of projects on the tributaries of the Mekong have been considered under the PNPCA notification process, but for the mainstream projects the higher level of interaction among countries through the 'prior consultation' process is needed before any national regulatory approvals are finalised. This distinction reflects the more extensive potential environmental and social impacts of proposed mainstream dams, such as on fish migration and peoples' livelihoods.

# Bioenergy and Food Security (BEFS) Project

Thailand was chosen as a pilot country for the BEFS project in Asia because of its diverse agricultural economy and growing biofuels industry.



Key bioenergy feedstock crops
BEFS partners in Thailand
BEFS Consultations in Thailand
Building on BEFS in Asia

### Key bioenergy feedstock crops

In Thailand, the BEFS assessment will focus on biofuels; specifically biofuels produced from cassava, sugar cane, and oil palm as the key bioenergy feedstock crops. These key feedstock crops will be the common thread throughout the analysis. However, each module may employ more detailed focus on particular crops depending on the nature of the analysis and data availability. Supplementary studies on small-scale bioenergy systems will also include consideration of other potential biofuel feedstock and productions systems including Jatropha Curcas.

### **BEFS** partners in Thailand

The FAO BEFS team works closely with Thai partners to transfer knowledge and build the capacity of Thai government and research organizations to utilize the BEFS analytical framework. Listed below are BEFS partner organizations in Thailand, their web site and the staff who are contributing to the BEFS project.

For the policy discourse the FAO BEFS team works closely with the Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficency of the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESBD).

# ASEAN Member States and key partners in the region commit to ensure a strong future for ASEAN-WEN

### **Network News**

Written bу Tanya Koch Thursday, 2 2 July 2010 In an effort to ensure the ASEAN region can mount an effective long-term response to wildlife crime, the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network's Experts Group met in Bangkok from 19-20 July, 2010, to discuss strategies of financial and regional long-term budget support for the Network. ASEAN-WEN is currently the world's largest wildlife law enforcement network. The ASEAN-WEN Experts Group Workshop on "Building a Strong and Effective Network for the Future" was hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation of Thailand. "This workshop is an opportunity for us to show our strong support to the network that we - all of us - created. It is also an occasion to show our commitment to saving the region's biodiversity", said Mr. Nipon Chotbal, Deputy Director General of the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Thailand. "ASEAN-WEN Member States will have to work together to achieve the ultimate goal of eliminating illegal wildlife trade in our region", said U Tin Tun, the Chairman of ASEAN- WEN, highlighting the importance of long-term support for the Network and its mission.

The Expert's Group identified key priorities such as the development of national task forces, the institutionalization of trainings, expanding partnerships with intergovernmental and international organizations as well as the increased awareness and commitment by ASEAN governments and their citizens. "Several parallel tracks are being employed to ensure the Network continues to gain firm footing and secure long-term financial resources. These include: facilitating meetings; encouraging regional cooperation; exploring possible links with other regional and international networks; exploring staff exchanges and cultivating partner countries like India and China's productive engagement in ASEAN-WEN", said Mr. Manop Lauprasert, Senior Officer of ASEAN-WEN's Project Coordination Unit (PCU). ASEAN-WEN Member Countries, in close collaboration with key partners and donors in the region, agreed on a scheme that will guarantee a strong and fruitful future for the Network. ASEAN Member States revised ASEAN-WEN's Programmatic and Operational action plan based on the updated ASEAN-WEN Strategic Plan of Action 2007-2012. This shall be submitted to the ASEAN Expert's Group on CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species) and the ASEAN Senior Officers on Forestry (ASOF) this year, before being proposed to the ASEAN Secretariat for endorsement and inclusion under its core programs funding mechanism.

The workshop was organized by the Royal Thai Government, in close cooperation with the ASEAN-WEN Program Coordination Unit, the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN-WEN Support Program, and with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Key donors and partner agencies that took part in this workshop include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Asian Development Bank's Greater Mekong Subregion Environment Operations Center (GMS-EOC).

Wildlife crime is a serious threat to Southeast Asia's biodiversity and environment. USAID, via a cooperative partnership with FREELAND Foundation and TRAFFIC, provides technical assistance to ASEAN governments to boost capacity and cooperation to stop wildlife crime through the ASEAN-WEN Support Program.

# Police in Six Countries Nab 25 Suspected Tiger Traders

13 October 2010

**Environment News Service** 

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Police in Six Countries Nab 25 Suspected Tiger Traders

LYON, France, October 13, 2010 (ENS) - An international law enforcement operation coordinated by INTERPOL against the illegal trade in tigers has led to the arrest of 25 individuals suspected of taking part in the illicit trade of one of the world's most endangered species.

The two-month operation in August and September involved national enforcement agencies in six tiger-range countries - China, India, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The entire operation was co-ordinated by IN-TERPOL's Environmental Crime Programme at its General Secretariat headquarters in Lyon.

INTERPOL worked in close collaboration with the participating member countries to provide a single platform to National Central Bureaus for the exchange and coordination of intelligence via INTERPOL's I-24/7 secure police communications system.

In Russia, criminal intelligence obtained by national authorities revealed key smuggling routes.

Direct enforcement action during the operation included the arrest by Indian authorities of 10 suspected wildlife criminals.

In Thailand, the Royal Thai Police arrested a number of alleged tiger smugglers connected to cross-border trade, including at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok.

In a single raid in Hanoi, Vietnamese police seized six whole tiger skeletons and six tiger skulls, while in a separate case two tiger carcasses were seized along with 50 kilograms of tiger bone. As few as 30 wild tigers are believed to survive in Vietnam.

In June, Vietnam's Environmental Police launched a 24-hour Wildlife Crime Hotline as a new enforcement measure in the battle against the illegal wildlife trade and other environmental crimes. More than 150 Environmental Police officers have been trained handle reports.

"The Government of Vietnam has strong laws in place to stop the illegal trade of protected plants and animals and the Environment Police is committed to enforcing these laws," said Capt. Luong Minh Thao, vice director of the Department of Environmental Police.

In addition to the 25 arrests during the twomonth INTERPOL operation, more than 50 kg of tiger bone, including skeletons and skulls, were seized, and key smuggling routes broken up during raids across the six participating countries.

INTERPOL's Environmental Crime Manager David Higgins said, "The national agencies involved in this international operation supported by INTERPOL have shown unscrupulous criminals who target threatened species that action will be taken to combat their illegal activities."

Fewer than 3,200 tigers remain in the wild as a result of loss of habitat and the involvement of organized criminal networks engaged in poaching and in the illegal trafficking of their skins and bones.

"It's great to see news of arrests of criminals rather than seizures alone," said Debbie Banks, who heads the Tiger Campaign for the UK-based nonprofit Environmental Investigation Agency, which investigates and campaigns against a wide range of environmental crimes, including illegal wildlife trade.

"Organized crime needs an organized response and Operation Tigre is a step in the right direction, but must be sustained," said Banks.

Conservationists hold out hope that concerted action and funding may be the outcome of a Heads of State Tiger Summit that will be held November 22-23 in St. Petersburg, Russia, hosted by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and World Bank President Robert Zoellick.

The summit aims to get unprecedented highlevel commitment for tiger conservation from all of the 13 tiger range states.

Banks said, "Increased resources for slick, professional policing operations to bust the criminal networks controlling the tiger trade should be at the top of the agenda for the St. Petersburg tiger forum."

The global conservation organization WWF has been working with tiger range countries to strengthen protection for wild tigers. WWF hopes the St. Petersburg summit will deliver a high-level binding agreement committing countries to initiate actions, backed by sustainable financing mechanisms, to double the number of wild tigers by 2022.

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## ANALYSIS-Asia's water scarcity poses economic, political test

By Alan Wheatley, Global Economics Correspondent

11 October 2010

JINGHONG, China, Oct 11 (Reuters) - Framed by banana and eucalyptus trees, the caramel-coloured Mekong river rolls through this lush corner of Yunnan province in southwestern China with an unerring rhythm that is reassuring in its seeming timelessness.

Yet as recently as April, a fearsome drought had shrivelled the Mekong to its narrowest in 50 years. Water levels were so low that at Guanlei, a river town not far from here, dozens of boats were laid up for more than three months. Alarmed at the drying up of the world's largest inland fishery, the four members of the Mekong River Commission -- Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam -- called a special summit.

"Without good and careful management of the Mekong river as well as its natural resources, this great river will not survive," **Thai** Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva warned. The commission's political leaders suspected that China was hoarding water behind the dams it has built on the Mekong, exacerbating the impact of the drought.

China presented data to allay these fears. Finally, the rains returned and the tensions dissipated. But the incident highlighted the strains that are being generated as Asia's unshakeable thirst for water collides with the reality of a supply that is limited and, if climate change projections are borne out, may shrink sharply.

The Asian Development Bank speaks of a looming crisis that threatens access to water and sanitation needs for millions of households and industries.

The bank is holding a high-level conference at its headquarters in Manila this week to chart solutions and canvass greater regional cooperation.

"In the next five to 10 years, if the initiatives to secure greater efficiencies in water are not put in place, you really are at risk," said Arjun Thapan, the ADB's special senior adviser for infrastructure and water, told Reuters.

#### MIND THE GAP

Projections last year by the Water Resources Group (WRG), a consortium of private-sector companies formed to tackle water scarcity, point to a global gap of 40 percent between the supply and demand for water by 2030 under a business-as-usual scenario.

The imbalance is particularly daunting in India, where the trend towards a middle-class diet will increase demand for meat, sugar and wheat, which require a lot of water to produce. Agriculture uses almost 90 percent of India's water.

By 2030, demand will grow to almost 1.5 trillion cubic metres, compared with today's supply of about 740 billion cubic metres, according to a report for the WRG by consultants McKinsey.

As a result, in the absence of concerted action, most of India's river basins could face a severe water deficit by 2030.

China's likely water deficit is more manageable on paper -- a shortfall of 200 billion cubic metres -- but 21 percent of the country's surface water resources are unfit even for farming, which consumes about 70 percent of the country's water.

See the McKinsey report at <a href="http://r.reuters.com/">http://r.reuters.com/</a> wuq57p

What makes such forecasts even more daunting is evidence that global warming is already eroding the Himalayan glaciers covering the Tibetan plateau, which feed neighbours including India and Pakistan as well as China itself.

More than 80 percent of glaciers in western China are now in retreat, according to a study by a group of mainly Chinese climatechange scientists in the September issue of 'Nature'.

Overall, 5 percent to 27 percent of China's glacial area is forecast to disappear by 2050, the study said.

"Even though the exact timing and magnitude of the 'tipping point' of each glacier is still uncertain, the projected long-term exhaustion of glacial water supply should have a considerable impact on the availability of water for both agricultural and human consumption," the scientists wrote.

Because 60 percent of the run-off from China's glaciers flows out of the country, this can spell only trouble.

China's plans for more dams on the Mekong and on other major rivers that tumble down from the Tibetan plateau already have its southern neighbours on edge.

"As far as transboundary management of water is concerned, I think certainly the Himalayas are likely to be a flashpoint," said the ADB's Thapan.

#### THE NEW OIL

The risk of conflict over water rights is magnified because China and India are home to over a third of the world's population yet have to make do with less than 10 percent of its water.

"Although both nations are seeking to become the superpowers of the 21st century, their weak point is water," according to Yoichi Funabashi, a prominent foreign-affairs commentator and editor-in-chief of the Asahi Shimbun, a Japanese newspaper.

India and Pakistan are another potential point of friction.

The Indus Waters Treaty, which parcelled out river use rights after India's partition in 1947, has survived three wars between the two neighbours since it was signed in 1960. But the pact is under strain from Indian plans for more upstream dams and water diversion schemes.

So what is to be done? Given that agriculture accounts for almost 70 percent of global water use, it will be critical to increase "crop per drop" via improved irrigation techniques and growing food that needs less water.

In the words of the Water Resources Group, "While the gap between supply and demand WILL be closed, the question is HOW."

As Funabashi puts it, oil can ultimately be replaced by other resources, but the same is not true for water. Water is also closely tied to food, energy and climate change.

"In that sense, water is a key component of national security. If the 20th century witnessed the rise and fall of nations over oil, the 21st century could be one in which the rise and fall of nations is determined by water," he wrote last month. (Additional reporting by John Mair in Manila; Editing by Richard Pullin)

**3 recent and diverse publications** produced with support and/or technical inputs from USAID's <u>Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade</u> (RAFT) program:

### **Biodiversity Conservation in Certified Forests**

In this issue of ETFRN News on Biodiversity conservation in certified forests, a wide variety of authors involved in certification and/ or the conservation of tropical forest biodiversity provide their views on the question whether certification is a good conservation strategy for tropical forests. The general message that emerges is a positive one, but not without qualifications. Most authors and respondents agree that certification has helped to improve management practices and to conserve forest biodiversity within certified forests in the tropics. However, the true extent of conservation benefits remains unknown due to a lack of rigorous and independent information. This issue aims to inform and advance debates concerning the role of forest certification in biodiversity conservation, and to stimulate efforts to better demonstrate and explore these.

RAFT's contribution to this discussion is captured in a joint-article by RAFT partners The Nature Conservancy (TNC), The Forest Trust (TFT) and the Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF)

 Certification in Indonesia: a practitioner perspective. The article considers certification as a biodiversity conservation tool in Indonesia based on extensive practical experience working with forest managers and communities. The article considers the conservation benefits of reduced impact loaging (RIL) and High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) and presents a case of what this looks like in practice. Authors also share key lessons about ensuring the effectiveness of certification as a conservation tool and challenges going forward – a must-read for anyone interested in a well-informed point view on some of the things needed to make certification work on the ground. Also see articles by RAFT partners TNC and WWF GFTN, and the complete issue of EFTRN News 51.

Additional resources are available from <u>INC</u>, <u>TFT</u> and <u>TFF</u>.

### Exporting in a Shifting Legal Landscape

RAFT and WWF GFTN's quide to legal exports, Exporting in a Shifting Legal Landscape, is aimed at companies that currently export, or intend to export, forest products to the US market. It is designed to allow companies to assess their own performance and offers advice on how they can meet the needs of their customers in the US—who are required to know that the forest products they import have been legally harvested and traded. The guide is also of benefit to forest service, customs officers and other government officials who serve as enforcement officers in the national forest law and related legislation that apply to all stages of the supply chain from harvest to export and import. The guide also makes reference to developments within the European market, particularly the markets of the European Union countries, where many of the ideas suggested within this manual will also be of relevance in the future. Exporting in a Shifting Legal Landscape is available in Bahasa Indonesia, Chinese, Malay and Vietnamese. The guide has been used in a regional legality training series carried out by RAFT partners WWF GFTN and TRAFFIC in Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and China, July-Sept 2010. Additional resources are available from WWF GFTN and TRAFFIC.

### Conflict Over Forests and Land in Asia: Impacts, causes and management

Violent conflict affects three quarters of Asia's forests and tens of millions of people. In Cambodia, for example, nearly half of the 236 land conflicts recorded in 2009 escalated to violence. Because forest conflict is such a major issue in the region, we need a better understanding of the underlying causes, impacts, and management solutions. Conflict over forests and land in Asia, the latest issues paper from RAFT partner RECOFTC-The Center for People and Forests, sheds light on these topics, drawing lessons from eight new case studies, including RAFT-supported case studies from Lao PDR and Indonesia. Forest conflict was the topic of RECOFTC's side-session at the IUFRO

World Congress held in August in Seoul, Korea. This month's <u>e-News commentary</u> reflects on both the lessons presented during the session and those from the Congress overall. RECOFTC also just released an online bibliography that introduces more than 100 publications relating to conflict, including case studies and toolkits. See: <u>Conflict bibliography</u>. Additional resources are available from <u>RECOFTC</u>.

### **Links of Interest**

The Big Cat Trade in Myanmar and Thailand: The New Traffic Report

http://www.traffic.org/home/2010/11/19/myanmar-border-markets-act-as-deadly-trade-gateway-for-tiger.html

 An interesting and moving documentary about orangutans, deforestation, and oil palm in Indonesia.

### http://www.greenthefilm.com/

 The Creative Partnership logo design contest has started! Tell your friends!

http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/
thai us creative partnership logo contest.h
tml

 Updates on Mekong Tourism with top story on how Angkor Tops List of 'Most Recommended' World Heritage Sites

### http://www.MekongTourism.org/update

- ASEAN-WEN Public Service Announcement
- Global Handwashing Day, October 15, 2010
- ID Guides for Wild Species Commonly Traded in Southeast Asia



### **USAID Job Announcement**

Natural Resources Program Development Specialist, USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia

Closing date: 06 January 2011 Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Duties: Provide technical assistance to USAID on natural resource management, biodiversity, and REDD+ activities across the Asia region; manage and monitor program activities, including coordination with USAID Missions, government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders.

Qualifications: Thai national; Masters' in relevant field; 5+ years natural resources and project management experience; fluency in English and Thai.

More info: <a href="http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/">http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/</a> job opportunities.html

### 2011 Health Observance Days

### **February**

4 World Cancer Day

#### March

- 8 International Woman's Day
- 22 World Water Day
- 24 World Tuberculosis Day

### April

- 7 World Health Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 25 World Malaria Day

#### May

- 12 International Nurses Day
- 18 HIV Vaccine Awareness Day
- 28 International Day of Action for Women's Health
- 31 World No Tobacco Day

### July

11 World Population Day

### June

5 World Environment Day

### **August**

12 International Youth Day

### September

26 World Heart Day

#### October

- 10 World Mental Health Day
- 15 Global Hand Washing Day
- 16 World Food Day
- 24 World Polio Day

### November

- 12 World Pneumonia Day
- 14 World Diabetes Day
- 25 International Day for Elimination of Vio-

lence Against Women, combined with "16

days of Activism"

from Nov 25- Dec 10

### December

1 World AIDS Day

### **Upcoming Events**

#### November 2010

- November 23-27: Freeland Enforcement Ranger Training in Lao PDR
- November 29-December 10: <u>UNFCCC Climate Change Conference COP 16 in Cancun</u>, Mexico

#### December 2010

- December 3: Freeland "Wildlife Trafficking Stops Here" Awareness Campaign launches at Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila, Philippines
- December 8-10: Chiang Mai Rajabhat University's <u>Conference on Clean Energy</u> with the Office of Naval Research, in Chiang Mai Thailand
- December 10: Freeland Judiciary Awareness Seminar in Lao PDR
- December 12: ASEAN-WEN Workshop on Legal Process for Wildlife Crime Prosecution, Lao
   PDR
- December 13-17: Freeland Ranger Based Data Collection Course in Pang Sida National Park, Thailand

### January 2011

January 5-25: Tiger Range State Conservation Training in Bangkok and Huai Kha Khaeng Thailand

#### March 2011

March 7: Potential Lacey Act Training Course, Bangkok Thailand

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and the articles contained herein
should not be construed as official U.S. government position.

The Southeast Asia Regional Environmental Affairs webpage:

bangkok.usembassy.gov/embassy/reo.htm

March 9-11: Mekong River Commission: International Conference on Watershed Management "From Local Watershed Management to Integrated River Basin Management at National and Transboundary Levels"

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